TRANSMITTAL LETTER			Case No. 10922/63
Serial No. 10/679,007	Filing Date October 3,2003	Examiner N/A	Group Art Unit N/A
Inventor(s) Gary L. Butler et al.			
Title of Invention RIGID EXTRACTOR			

OIPE
DEC 23 2003
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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, 11 cited references, and return postcard.

☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR § 1.27 has been established by verified statement previously submitted.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR1.27.

☐ Petition for a _____month extension of time.

☒ No additional fee is required.

☐ The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity Rate	Small Entity Add'l Fee	or	Other Than Small Entity Rate	Other Than Small Entity Add'l Fee
Total		Minus			x $9 =			x $18 =	
Indep.		Minus			x 43 =			x $86 =	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ $145 =			+ $290 =	
					Total add'l fee	$		Total add'l fee	$

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 (BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE) in the amount of $_____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of $_____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

D.W. Okey

David W. Okey
Registration No. 42,959
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 00757 - Brinks Hofer Gilson Lione

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 18, 2003.

Date: Dec 18, 2003 Signature: D.W. Okey

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

Dec 18, 2003
Date of Deposit

David W. Okey, Reg. No. 42,959
Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

Signature

Dec 18, 2003
Date of Signature

Our Case No.: 10922/63

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	
Gary L. Butler et al.	Examiner: N/A
Serial No.: 10/679,007	Group Art Unit No.: N/A
Filing Date: October 3, 2003	
For: RIGID EXTRACTOR	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed documents that are not U.S. Patent documents, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

The references now cited are the following:

U.S. Patents

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	NAME
	A1	4,763,668	08/16/1988	Macek et al.
	A2	4,968,678	11/06/1990	Ornstein
	A3	5,290,294	03/01/1994	Cox et al.
	A4	5,308,357	05/03/1994	Lichtman
	A5	5,318,589	06/07/1994	Lichtman
	A6	5,387,219	02/07/1995	Rappe
	A7	5,989,266	11/23/1999	Foster
	A8	6,099,534	08/08/2000	Bates et al.
	A9	6,159,220	12/12/2000	Gobron et al.
	A10	6,168,603	01/02/2001	Leslie et al.
	A11	6,174,318	01/16/2001	Bates et al.
	A13	6,183,482	02/06/2001	Bates et al.
	A12	6,203,552	03/20/2001	Bagley et al.
	A13	6,217,589	04/17/2001	McAlister
	A14	6,224,612	05/01/2001	Bates et al.
	A15	6,280,451	08/28/2001	Bates et al.
	A16	6,302,895	10/16/2001	Gobron et al.
	A17	6,342,062	01/29/2002	Suon et al.
	A18	6,348,056	02/19/2002	Bates et al.
	A19	6,350,266	02/26/2002	White et al.
	A20	6,368,328	04/09/2002	Chu et al.
	A21	6,383,196	05/07/2002	Leslie et al.
	A22	6,402,761	06/11/2002	McAlister
	A24	6,464,710	10/15/2002	Foster
	A25	6,491,698	12/10/2002	Bates et al.
	A26	6,500,182	12/31/2002	Foster
	A27	6,520,968	02/18/2003	Bates et al.
	A28	6,527,781	03/04/2003	Bates et al.
	A29	6,544,227	04/08/2003	Sahatjian et al.
	A30	6,565,530	05/20/2003	Sahatjian et al.
	A31	6,602,262	08/05/2003	Griego et al.
	A32	6,626,915	09/30/2003	Leveillee
	A33	6,652,537	11/25/2003	Mercereau et al.

Foreign Patents

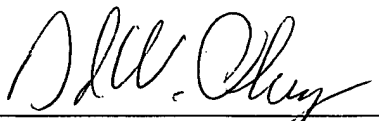
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	COUNTRY
	A34	EP 0446020 B1	01/25/1995	EPO
	A35	EP 0538984 B1	03/05/1997	EPO
	A36	EP 0679071 B1	03/24/1999	EPO
	A37	EP 1348381 A2	10/01/2003	EPO
	A38	WO 9604875 A1	02/22/1996	WIPO
	A39	WO 9605773 A1	02/29/1996	WIPO
	A40	WO 9717014 A1	05/15/1997	WIPO
	A41	WO 9738632 A1	10/23/1997	WIPO
	A42	WO 9742884 A2	11/20/1997	WIPO
	A43	WO 0071036 A2	11/30/2000	WIPO
	A44	WO 0180748 A2	11/01/2001	WIPO

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Applicant(s) respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 10/679,007	CASE NO. 10922/63
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	FILING DATE October 3, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT N/A
(use several sheets if necessary)	APPLICANT(S): Gary L. Butler et al.	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind Code (if known)	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	4,763,668	08/16/1988	Macek et al.		
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	A31	6,602,262	08/05/2003	Griego et al.		
	A32	6,626,915	09/30/2003	Leveillee		
	A33	6,652,537	11/25/2003	Mercereau et al.		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 10/679,007	CASE NO. 10922/63
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	FILING DATE October 3, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT N/A
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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